

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 4th, 2010

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Julie Perry, Florence Ridderhof, Debby Klein, Pat Thalman, Peter Scelfo, Kerry Devine and Kathleen Walsh.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were presented and it was agreed that they would be voted on at the March meeting after the commission had time to review them.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurers report was presented. The Commission has actual funds of \$14,250 in its treasury. Florence Ridderhof made the motion to approve the report as presented and Debby Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were two members of the public in attendance - Carolyn Van der Jagt representing the Arts Council of the Rappahannock and Sue Henderson from the Via Colori festival committee.

Report to Council – Roy Jarnecke

Kerry Devine and Julie Perry informed the Commission of Roy Jarnecke's recent update to City Council. His presentation was short and well received by Council members and the City Manager. The majority of the content discussed was devoted to the upcoming Via Colori festival.

Reports

Arts Festival Committee – Kevin Bartram & Sue Henderson

Sue Henderson reported and the group concurred that the upcoming snow storm was going to postpone the originally scheduled planning time with Rick Compton, Via Colori founder. Originally scheduled for February 8th – 10th Sue Henderson will inform the Commission when the new dates have been chosen.

Public Arts – Pat Thalman

Pat Thalman reported that the public arts committee had submitted a grant to the EDA and that although they were not allowed to present the application as they originally had intended they were optimistic of EDA support. The committee will learn of the results of their application in April when they can move forward with the project.

Website Committee – Debby Klein

Debby Klein reported that the website committee had not yet met but was planning to meet immediately prior to the next commission meeting and would have a report then.

Long Term Planning Committee – Peter Scelfo

The Long Term Planning Committee opened the floor for comments about the recently distributed draft of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Debby Klein began the conversations by asking about the referenced interviews. Peter Scelfo responded that the interviews were done throughout the research process and were about various relevant topics. Kerry Devine then commented that she felt the July 2010 dates in the goals section were too ambitious and Florence Ridderhof agreed. Peter Scelfo responded that he felt they weren't too ambitious as most of the items with those dates were about forming committees or appointing a group to begin research not truly for completed projects. Julie Perry said that these dates were also meant to open the floor for discussion and to help the Commission really focus on what they thought was universally important and to prioritize those things. Much discussion followed.

Various topics were discussed specifically. Kerry Devine really like the Bandstand in Hurkamp Park idea and referenced the Patriot Park project in Spotsylvania County. Kevin Bartram informed the Commission that that project was funded by a bond referendum. Riverfront Park was also discussed and Kerry Devine informed the group that although a working plan was in place there was no finished plan for the park. Peter again stressed how important it was to prioritize our key issues as a Commission and presented the Fairfax Arts and Cultural plan and facilities inventory as an example of what a well defined plan could do for a community. Discussion continued.

Florence Ridderhof and Kerry Devine discussed the possibility of a UMW intern working on a facilities inventory for the City of Fredericksburg. Pat Thalman agreed that she had wonderful experiences with their interns and reminded everyone that they could truly accomplish good things. Peter Scelfo then said that whatever new work we decided to do we should not forget the excellent survey and website work generous contributed by Carolyn van der Jagt.

As the conversations progressed with one concept after another, Debby Klein asked if we weren't being too specific with some of our goals and objectives. A possible Bike Night was discussed, a new version of the Saturday Farmers Market (Saturdays in the Park) was discussed and as a broader concept the Commission also talked through what constitutes art activity in the City Fredericksburg. In particular these three concepts did not achieve much universal agreement – there were passionate opinions on both sides.

Peter Scelfo said he would consider all the comments, make edits and changes and continue this dialogue at future meetings.

Old Business

Arts and Culture District – George Solley

There is no new information on the Arts and Cultural district.

New Business

Virginia Tourism Corporation Help Desk – Julie Perry

Julie Perry announced a VTC Help Desk event at the Courtyard by Marriott on Wednesday, February 17th, 2010 from 9am – 3pm and encouraged commission members to attend. The event would be open house style and would inform attendees on how they can take advantage of the resources offered by the Tourism Corporation.

Challenge Grant Procedures – Roy Jarnecke

Julie Perry spoke for Roy Jarnecke about the upcoming government challenge grant. Much discussion followed regarding the existing procedures and the different groups that have benefited from this program in the past. Julie Perry explained that she had been instructed to tighten up the procedures on this grant and to take steps towards a more formal application process. It was also discussed that benefactors needed to be geographically centered on the City of Fredericksburg, not its surrounding localities. This was controversial and concern was expressed as to whether or not all existing recipients met this requirement. In the end, the commission agreed that a new process needed to be designed and that groups applying for the grant be given an opportunity to state how they “significantly contribute” within the City of Fredericksburg. The Arts Commission recognized that time was of the essence with the state deadline being April 1st so the group agreed to allow Julie Perry to move forward as she deemed necessary to insure compliance with the VA Commission for the Arts deadlines. In order to give all organizations equal opportunity for the grant the FAC decided they would run an ad in the Free Lance Star stating the following:

The City of Fredericksburg is collecting applications for the VA Commission for the Arts Government Challenge Grant. Any Interested 501(c)3 organizations should contact Julie Perry at 540-373-1776 or japerry@fredericksburgva.gov to apply.

After applications had been received the commission will review them at the March meeting and pass on the final selections to city employee Debbie Wood for submission.

Commission Appointments – Roy Jarnecke

Julie Perry informed the Commission that several members would be up for ‘rotation’ in July. Kerry Devine said it is common for those individuals to extend their term or if they are not willing that Tonya Lacey will advertise the opening and we could encourage others to apply.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 4th, 2010 at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Adjournment

Kerry Devine moved to adjourn, Pat Thalman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.